

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ ROUTE
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Origin

SS

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ACTION: Embassy MOSCOW 970

~~SECRET~~ PRIORITY

Dec 22 8:14 PM '62

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INFO: Embassy LONDON 2275;
Embassy PARIS 2318
Embassy ROME 856
Embassy BONN 1053
Embassy OTTAWA 500

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Following is based on unclassified memcon. Secretary called in Soviet Ambassador this afternoon. Secretary stated that at direction of President he had been instructed to hand Ambassador letter from President to Khrushchev and copy of speech which President would make at 7:00 p.m. tonight. Dobrynin read both texts very carefully and was told US Government had no intention publishing letter but would inform Soviets if this decision changed. Secretary confirmed that President's speech will refer to letter but would give no substance of it.

Secretary said he not instructed to add comments but wished to say informally that it was incomprehensible to him how leaders in Moscow could make such gross error of

judgment

Drafted by: EUR:SOV:JCGuthrie:AMR 10/22

Telegraph transmission and

classification approved by:

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Clearance:

8/5

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judgment as to what US can accept. He expressed hope Soviet Union would make major effort to reverse situation.

Dobrynin commented "all of this" unjustifiable and will very strongly aggravate international situation. He said he would report conversation and messages promptly. 211

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